DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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'After us – the Deluge'

U.S. PLANS TO FLOOD WEST GERMANY

American military experts have completed plans to flood huge stretches of West Germany, and to blow up all bridges in the event of the American war breaking out in Europe. Details of this plot against peace and humanity have now been collated in Berlin. The Americans have tried to keep their preparations secret, but details which have leaked out show that technical preparations for carrying out demolitions and flooding on a scale never before seen have already been completed.

The plans for flooding, which would cost probably hundreds of thousands of lives, centre round the rocky gorge of the Rhine near St. Goar, left centre on the map. In June 1950 a commission of U. S. Army engineers inspected the historic Lorelei crags at this point, and ordered the boring of huge demolition chambers under the crags on both sides of the Rhine.

Twenty-five of these chambers have so far been completed. When filled with high explosives, or perhaps with atomic material, and then exploded, these would be sufficient to choke the Rhine at a narrow point, and flood the Rhine valley.

Experts estimate that the demolitions would raise the level of the Rhine at that point by at least 60 feet, which would be sufficient to wipe out dozens of towns and villages and bring devastation as far as the Swiss frontier, 200 miles to the south.

The flooding of the upper Rhine valley is only the first step in this truly fiendish plan, however. When the devastation above the artificially created dam is considered complete, the dam would be destroyed with atomic bombs, and the pent up waters would roar across the densely populated districts of north east Germany, killing probably millions.

A flood wave about 45 feet high, moving at 30 miles an hour would engulf the entire lower Rhine, parts of the Ruhr, and large parts of Holland. Devastating flooding would continue for at least 25 days. (The area which would be flooded by these actions is the shaded strip on the left of the map.)

(cont. on page 2)

(cont. from p. 1)

'AFTER US — THE DELUGE'

Other preparations for flooding have been made along the river Weser, running from south to north in the middle of the map. In this case extensive demolitions are planned at the Porta Westfalica, near the town of Minden. Still further plans call for the flooding of the low-lying coastal areas along the North Sea coast, as well as neighbouring areas of Holland.

The second part of the American programme of destruction is the destruction of all bridges in West Germany.

This programme was first publicly admitted by West German Chancellor Adenauer in 1951. The "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" reported on April 20th 1951:

"In reply to a parliamentary question about preparations being made by the American occupation authorities for the demolition of bridges, the Federal Chancellor replied that the Government was aware of such preparatory measures for bridge demolition.

"He added that the High Commissioners had declared that they were unable to dispense with the preparation of demolition chambers for military reasons. The Ministry of Transport had ordered that bridge plans be handed over to the American Army."

The work of preparing for bridge destruction had begun much earlier, however, and in autumn 1950 the Bonn Ministry of Transport had handed over the plans of 54 main bridges to the Engineer Corps of the U. S. Army.

Many of the bridges which have been prepared for demolition were already destroyed by the SS in the last days of the Hitler war, and have only just been repaired. In the newest bridges, demolition chambers are included when they are built, on the orders of the occupation authorities.

Railway tunnels are also a target for the explosion experts. A total of seven tunnels on the short stretch of railway between Nuremberg and Pegnitz (right lower centre on the map) have been earmarked for destruction, and similar preparations have been made on many other stretches.

This is only a short list of the preparations which have been made to turn West Germany into a graveyard. The map shows the main centres of the preparations.

The Americans have not been able to do their work unhindered. In many towns the entire town council has refused to hand over bridge blue-prints to the U. S. Army, and contractors employed on the work of building demolition chambers discover that their concrete mixers and materials have a way of "falling into the river."

Article 2 of the Soviet draft for a peace treaty with Germany states:

"All armed forces of the occupation powers must be withdrawn from Germany at the latest one year after a peace treaty with Germany comes into force. At the same time all foreign military bases on German territory will be liquidated."

All German patriots know that only the conclusion of a just peace treaty with reunited Germany, on the lines suggested in the Soviet draft, can guarantee that the plans detailed above will not be put into effect.

* * *

The French Press Agency reported on September 15th that in the course of the "Monte Carlo" manoeuvre held in West Germany, it was assumed that the Eder Dam had been blown up, and that the valley of the Fulda was under water.

Arms Stocks Soar

West German stock markets shot up following the election success of Chancellor Adenauer and his militaristic clique, clearly showing what big business thinks of the prospects for rearmament. Here are statistics of the prices on the West German stock market of just a few of the shares of heavy industrial firms which would be the first to profit from large scale rearmament:

	July 24th before election campaign	September 4th just before election	September 30th
I. G. Farben	89.50	96.70	99.70
Siemens Electric	109.50	125.00	134.00
Kloeckner Steel	198.00	218.50	258.50
Harpener Mines	248.25	254.50	300.00

"Hygiene Institute" Was Spy Ring

East German People's Police have smashed a dangerous American spy ring operating in the German Democrating Republic.

The spy ring, mainly composed of former nazis, was directed from the "Institute for Factory Hygiene" attached to the West Berlin University. West Berlin University receives huge subsidies from various U. S. bodies, including the Ford Foundation.

This so-called "Hygiene Institute" is headed by former nazi General Doering, alias Flammenberg and a former nazi police colonel Bockelmann alias Hartmann.

The institute, which had been active since 1952, organised former Gestapo agents and other nazis living in the German Democratic Republic into three-man groups, charged with collecting military and economic information. Each group was equipped with portable radio equipment made in the United States.

Instruction in espionage methods was given to agents at schools situated at various addresses in the American sector of West Berlin, including 12a Huettenweg, a villa at the corner of Berner Strasse and Zuericher Strasse, and in another villa at the corner of Wachtel Strasse and Im Gehege Street.

Smart work by the People's Police has led to the smashing of large sections of the spy network. A considerable number of arrests have been made, and a great quantity of U. S. radio transmitters have been seized.

The persons arrested include Frau Feodora von Steinmetz, former large estate owner, who worked after 1945 for a British military agency; Armin Zopf, member of the nazi party from 1931 onwards, SS man and concentration camp guard; Rudolf Seifert, member of the SA, Hitler's storm troops.

Krupp Back in the Cannon Business

Alfred Krupp, West German cannon king, is quite openly back in the weapon business again.

At a special show staged in Bonn for West European military experts the Krupp works in Essen showed a heavy tractor which was described in the programme as "especially suitable for use with light artillery."

East German Trade Delegation in Cairo

An East German trade delegation arrived in Cairo on September 22nd in order to expand the present exchange of goods between the two countries.

JUST SUPPOSING

Suppose the Republican or Democratic governor of a U. S. state decided that a neighbour state should have a governor of the same party as his.

Suppose he decided it must be liberated in the same way Eisenhower wants to "liberate" the East Germans.

Now because of high prices, many of his own citizens might be skimping on their meals, but this great "humanitarian" would decide rather to send food packages to the border of his neighbour state, hoping this would incite his neighbours to riot and perhaps start a civil or world war.

Many neighbouring people, both rich and poor, might come to get one of these bargain food packages. But this would not mean that they were starving in the one state, nor that there was too much food in the other. Nor would it mean that those who came for a food package intended to start clubbing their friends.

But it would show the world how selfish and ridiculous is this governor.

Reader's letter in the "National Guardian", New York, September 21st.

Father Christmas in the Cold War

By the Editor

President Eisenhower appears to fancy himself in the role of a fairy godmother, or as Father Christmas.

After dreaming up a "famine" in East Germany, and using surplus American food as a weapon in the cold war, he has now got around to exploiting good-hearted Americans with appeals to them to donate their old clothes, which he intends to use for the same purpose.

The United States State Department announced on September 22nd that some 30 to 40 voluntary organisations in the U. S. including the Society of Friends, the National Catholic Welfare Conference and the World Council of Churches were expected to cooperate in collecting cast-off clothing for "the needy people in East Germany"

The facts of the matter are that ample supplies of warm clothing and stout shoes, at prices comparable to, or cheaper, than prices in the United States, are on free and unlimited sale in East Germany.

There is no unemployment there, so that everyone is able to buy such clothes as they need.

President Eisenhower's new move is therefore quite clearly just another move in the U. S. campaign to achieve two ends:

a) to spread the idea in the western world that East Germany is in a state of collapse;

b) to attempt to cause unrest and to recruit new agents in East Germany.

If President Eisenhower really wants to do a Father Christmas act, he might try sending free food and clothes to Puerto Rico, for instance, where malnutrition rages and the infantile death rate is far higher than in East Germany.

And any warmhearted American who is tempted to give clothing to a charity organisation collecting for East Germany should remember that he is not helping the cause of international friendship and understanding, but is being taken for a sucker by the cold war merchants.

Adenauer Opens Attack on West German Unions

West German Chancellor Adenauer has opened a fierce attack upon the West German Trade Union Federation, which he regards as a danger to his policy of remilitarisation.

West German trade unionists, who recall that Hitler smashed the powerful trade union movement in Germany a few months after he came to power, are taking steps to protect their organisation.

Main weapon of the present attack is Adenauer's claim that the trade unions are not "neutral" in political life.

On September 24th Adenauer's party, the Christian Democratic Union, demanded that persons named by the Christian Democrats should be appointed to key posts in the trade union movement, although the great majority of the union members are Social Democrats.

In addition Adenauer's party demanded that steps be taken to oust all trade union officials who are members of the Communist Party, or who support the peace movement.

If these demands were not promptly complied with, the Christian Democrats would establish their own blackleg unions.

Coal Expert Spied for Adenauer's Son in Law

The Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic passed stiff sentences on September 26th on a group of coal mining experts who had acted as spies and saboteurs for West German financial groups.

Dr. Otto Fleischer and Wilhelm Kappler, leaders of the group, were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, and five others to terms of between 5 and 12 years.

Dr. Fleischer told the court that he had been in personal contact with Hermann Werhahn, owner of the biggest soft-coal fields in West Germany, and son-in-law of West German Chancellor Adenauer. At a meeting with Werhahn in August 1952 Fleischer had given him confidential information on the most secret details of coal production in East Germany, and had arranged to send him further such reports regularly.

Earlier, Fleischer stated, he had been in contact with Director Stephan, member of the board of directors of the Ruhr Mining Industry, who had charged him with the task of "crippling coal production in the Soviet Zone, so that coal reserves would be preserved for their rightful owner, the coal barons."

Dr. Fleischer told the court that he had attempted to sabotage coal production "so as to prove that the working class was not capable of taking over the leadership in industry."

He admitted that during the nazi era he had been a Gestapo agent.

ALLIED HIGH COMMISSIONS Germany
"ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME WE HANDED BACK TO FRAU GOERING ALL THOSE NICE TREASURES HER HUSBAND COLLECTED..?"

(News Chronicle, London)

IS WEST BERLIN FREE?

The big business press is fond of describing West Berlin as a "bastion of liberty," or "free outpost of the western world."

The letter reproduced below shows that there is no freedom there for those who pledge to carry on the work of the heroes murdered by the nazis.

The letter, which is self-explanatory, was sent by the West Berlin Wage Adjustment Office to a worker named Max Mahlecke, who lives in the British Sector.

The West Berlin Wage Adjustment Office was set up to deal with the many thousands of West Berliners who travel daily to work in the factories of East Berlin. Since different currencies are used in the city, this special office was established to change a certain proportion of their earnings from East marks into West marks.

Exclusion of a West Berliner from these facilities means in effect that he loses his job, since he has no West marks with which to pay his rent, etc.

So Max Mahlecke, and many other West Berlin workers like him, have lost their jobs and gone on relief because they oppose nazism.

LOHNAUSGLEICHSKASSE BERLIN

ABTEILUNG U

Aktenzeichen: M 53/U 210/G (Angabe bei Antwort erbeten)

BERLIN W 30, den 27. Februar 1953

Tauentzienstraße 14 – Zimmer 47

Telefon: 24 69 01, Apparat 47

Herrn
Max M a h l e c k e
Berlin - Spandau
Golmer Str. 19

Betr.: Ausschluß vom Lohnumtausch

Nach einer uns vom Polizeipräsidenten in Berlin zugegangenen Mitteilung haben Sie am 13.9.1952 auf dem Friedhof Spandau einen Kranz niedergelegt, Dessen Schleife die Inschrift trug: "Euer Opfer sei uns Verpflichtung- VVN Spandau" . Die Schleife mußte durch Polizeiangehörige entfernt werden, da Sie der Aufforderung zur Entfernung nicht nachkamen.

Hierdurch haben Sie eine Störung der politischen Ordnung in Westberlin verursacht. Sie werden daher gemäß Ziffer II der 2. Bekanntmachung über den weiteren Ausschluß vom Umtausch im Lohnausgleichsverfahren vom 25.4. 1952 (Amtsblatt für Berlin Nr. 19 S. 347) vom weiteren Lohnumtausch ausgeschlossen.

Gegen diesen Bescheid steht Ihnen das Rechtsmittel der Beschwerde zu.

– 2 –

(translation)

WAGE ADJUSTMENT OFFICE BERLIN

Herr Max Mahlecke
19 Golmer Straße
Berlin-Spandau

Subject: Exclusion from wage exchange

The Police President in Berlin has informed us that on September 13th 1952 you laid a wreath in the Spandau Cemetery. This wreath bore the inscription: "Your sacrifice must be for us a pledge — VVN Spandau (Association of Persecutees of Nazism)". This inscription had to be removed by the police, since you refused to remove it when requested to do so.

You have thus caused a disturbance of political order in West Berlin. You will therefore be excluded from further wage exchange in accordance with paragraph II of the 2nd Ordinance on Further Exclusions from Exchanges in the Course of Wage Adjustment of 25. 4. 1952 (Berlin Official Gazette No. 19 page 347).

You are permitted to file an appeal against this decision.

'HITLER AS LOVER'

A West German film company is now at work on a full length feature film of the life of Hitler. Publicity releases for the film, which is being made at Munich in the American Zone, state that it will include "hitherto private cinema shots of Hitler as a man and as a lover" which were allegedly taken by Eva Braun, Hitler's mistress.

The producers also promise that "Inspiring speeches" by Hitler, Goebbels, Goering and Hess will be included.

WARNING – POISON

A West German film company has just turned out a documentary film entitled "Berlin, Gate to Freedom," a propaganda film directed against East Germany.

As it is very likely that this film will soon be shown in cinemas in Britain and the United States, GERMAN REPORT feels it necessary to give a few biographical details about Johannes Haeussler, the producer and director of this "freedom-loving film."

During the pre-Hitler Republic Herr Haeussler turned out a number of militaristic films including "Iron Hindenburg in War and Peace," which was rejected even by Hindenburg as too militaristic.

In 1932, he took part in the preparations for an attack on the Polish frontier plotted by Hitler's storm troops in an attempt to involve Germany in international conflict.

Today, he frankly states "I was a nazi, body and soul" ("Spiegel," Hamburg, July 15th 1953).

During the war Haeussler was propaganda chief for Organisation Todt, the slave labour organisation which Hitler used for building fortifications.

His post-war productions, apart from the Berlin documentary, include "That Was Our Rommel," a documentary glorifying the nazi campaign in North Africa.

Poison Specialist Back at Work

Dr. Otto Ambros, war criminal and poison gas expert, is back at his old trade again on the board of directors of the West German chemical firm "Kalk-Stickstoff-Werke" in Trostberg, American Zone. The firm is one of the big munitions manufacturers, turning out blue-cross gas and nitroglycerine.

During the war Dr. Ambros was chief of the Chemical Warfare Committee of Hitler's Armaments Ministry, and manager of the IG Farben Chemical Trust works in the death camp of Auschwitz.

On July 30th 1948 a U. S. court, presided over by Judge Curtis G. Shake of Indiana, found Ambros guilty of plunder and spoliation, use of slave labour and responsibility for the death of concentration camp inmates. He was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment, but was released soon afterwards.

EAST GERMAN RATIONING TO END

Deputy Premier Ulbricht Reviews Situation

Plans are being made to end all rationing in East Germany next year, and simultaneously to slash prices of non-rationed goods, it was officially announced in Berlin.

The announcement was made by Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, in a momentous speech to the 16th Meeting of the Central Committee of the Party on September 17th.

"Our aim at present is to end all rationing in the summer of 1954, and to restore a unitary price system" Walter Ulbricht stated. At present rationed goods in the German Democratic Republic are sold at very low fixed prices, well below the West German level, while many unrationed goods are still more expensive than in West Germany.

"We plan big cuts in the prices of shoes, textiles, bicycles, motorcycles, and in the prices of non-rationed foodstuffs such as fish, cheese, cigarettes, wine and beer" the Deputy Prime Minister said.

Here are other main points from the speech, which covered the entire field of internal and foreign policy:

Industrial Production

In the first eight months of this year, industrial production was 11.3% up on last year's figures, and monthly industrial production has now reached a level 64% above the 1936 average. Here are some statistics for this year's production from January to August in percentages of production during the same months last year:

pig iron	183.9
electric power	104.6
motor trucks	181.4
bicycles	124.0
tractors	131.7
furniture	115.6
shoes	108.8

The original Five Year Plan is being revised in the interests of better supplies for the population. By 1955, the end of the Five Year Plan period, gross production will reach roughly the level foreseen in the plan, but the production of capital goods will be somewhat reduced, while the production of consumer goods will exceed the figures originally laid down.

Supply Situation

Thanks to the help of the Soviet Union and to increased home production of foodstuffs and household goods, home trade and food supplies have improved very considerably during the third quarter of 1953. 14.7% more butter, 52.4% more margarine, 37.6% more fresh and canned fish, 25.8% more sugar and 200% more vegetable oil were sold in July and August as compared with the last two months of the second quarter. The sale of other household goods has also increased.

The increase in the sale of basic foodstuffs in the second half-year as compared with the first half-year of 1953 will be:

Meat and meat products	14%
Magarine	61%
Fish and fish products	60%
Eggs	18%

Turnover will increase still further in 1954. Consumption of meat per head will be 98 lbs, over 22 lbs more than in 1953. The supply of eggs will increase by 50%, milk 23% and cheese 88%. The improvement in the supply of potatoes, vegetables and fruit is very important. A decrease in the delivery quota of fruit and vegetables makes it possible for market gardeners to sell a considerable surplus on the free market. In 1953 the supply per head is 96 lbs of fruit, which will rise to over 107 lbs in 1954. This is 30% more than in 1936. Vegetables are this year available in the same quantity as in 1936.

Wage Policy

Average wages in nationally owned industry will rise during 1953 by about 8%, and labour productivity will be raised by the same figure. Wages must be calculated on the basis of the complicated or difficult nature of the work done, and workers and members of the intelligentsia must be given material inducements to improve their qualifications.

It is a basic principle of Socialist economy that the workers should have a material interest in raising production. That is why payment by results, based upon technically calculated work norms, must be the main form of wage payment in our nationally owned factories.

We all know that our wage system does not yet accord fully with these principles. The reason for this is that we took over the capitalist wage system, which had a different content. A number of steps to adjust the wage system have already been taken, and during 1954 and 1955 we must introduce standardised wage group catalogues which will eliminate great differences in pay for the same job, both within one factory and between different factories.

I must emphasise, however, that the working class, and the entire population, benefits most when we devote our main attention to lowering prices.

Light Industries

Factories should mark their products, so that people can tell where their purchases come from. It must be a matter of honour to a factory that its trade mark finds favour with the public and sets an example of good quality, form and utility.

The public demands from the textile industry good quality material, wide ranges of colours and more tasteful designs. Country customers have their special wishes, especially in regard to workers' clothing. There is a shortage of hard-wearing materials for workers and peasants. We must have more bed and table linen and children's clothing, especially for toddlers. People are still far from satisfied with the clothing now available.

Wholesale and Retail Trade

The government has recently introduced a number of measures calculated to improve and increase turnover. The increased supply of goods demands a very considerable improvement in wholesale and retail trading methods.

The state trading organisation and the consumers' cooperatives must increase their efforts to keep country districts supplied with goods of good quality and variety.

In areas where there are few state trading and cooperative shops more goods must be delivered to private shops, so that people living in out-of-the-way country districts can buy what they want locally.

Agriculture

In order to consolidate development of the agricultural producers' cooperatives, 270 smaller cooperatives, representing 5% of the total, most of which were set up in May and June of this year and contained only five or six peasant holdings which had not yet developed any significant activity, have been dissolved during the last three months.

This means that to date there are in the German Democratic Republic 4,800 agricultural producers' cooperatives covering an area of 739,000 hectares, in which 61,000 farms and 137,600 members are cooperating.

Peace Treaty

The chief obstacle to the signature of a peace treaty is the policy of the Bonn government which, in the so-called European Defence Agreements, has renounced the national independence of West Germany and wants to perpetuate her shameful position as a US protectorate.

Adenauer uses the very tactics with which Hitler prepared for the second World War. He talks about the policy of "military strength" and maintains that he can seize the Polish territories without thereby bringing catastrophe on Germany.

The West German warmongers clearly underestimate the strength of the peace camp and the strong bonds of friendship between the Soviet Union, the Polish People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic and the Czechoslovak Republic.

If this policy of the West German militarists announced by Adenauer is carried out, it can only end in the downfall of the aggressors on their own ground.

American Aims

The Americans will now exploit the formal parliamentary majority of the Adenauer clique to push forward rearmament and intensify the development of West German war industries. This will place even heavier burdens on the shoulders of the West German working people.

But the ruling industrial magnates and militarists will soon find out that it is easier to catch votes by means of pressure and deception than to push through measures directed against the vital interests of the working class.

Although those now in control in West Germany have the chance to clothe themselves in a parliamentary mantle, the actual political position will without any doubt lead to a strengthening of the forces of peace, despite the nominal parliamentary situation.

Adenauer is trying to push through his aggressive policy in the same way as Hitler did, under the slogan of unity of the European countries and of the European Defence agreements, which are nothing more than a get-together of West German rearmament firms and militarists under US control. In actual fact only the Germans can decide about German affairs, the French about French affairs and the Americans about US affairs.

The men in power in the US have succeeded in pushing into power in West Germany the most aggressive exponents of the policy of revenge, who are willing to act as the advance troops of US finance capital against the Soviet Union and the democratic states of Europe.

The aggressive imperialist elements in West Germany exploit the dissatisfaction of broad sections of the population with the consequences of the Hitler war, in order to develop just such a policy of revenge as Hitler used in his war preparations after the first world war.

Hitler led up to his attacks on Poland and Czechoslovakia with military threats, distribution of food parcels, corruption of politicians and all manner of promises. The American and Bonn aggressors are doing the same today.

The Churches

It is a new development for the leaders of the Catholic Church and of the Evangelical Church under Church president Dr. Ehlers and Bishop Dibelius to give full support to this policy. There can be no question but that this is directly opposed to the opinions of wide sections of clergy and churchgoers in the German Democratic Republic and also in West Germany.

Fight for Democracy

The mighty international peace movement with the powerful Soviet Union at its head will know how to defeat the robber plans of the American and West German imperialists. Never will the German people give up the great democratic achievements of the German Democratic Republic. Never will they consent to the return of the big capitalists and landowners.

Workers' Unity

It is now of paramount importance that the workers of all political opinions and the trade unionists get together in frank discussion to draw the main lesson from the elections: that is, that the workers must cooperate just as closely as the big capitalists and militarists cooperate with Adenauer.

Only when the workers, whatever their political views, Social democratic, Communist, non-party or Christian, join together and fight against the occupation and against the burdens of rearmament will it be possible to win the broad masses of working peasants and peace-loving petite bourgeoisie for the great people's movement, for a united, peace-loving, democratic Germany.

By his demand for "neutrality" of the trade unions, Adenauer strives to make the trade unions a willing tool of West German capital. But the trade unions cannot remain "neutral" in face of the demands of big business for a worsening of working conditions and in face of the burdens of rearmament and the terror measures of the Bonn Ministry of Interior.

Reunification Proposals

Under present conditions, when Germany in fact consists of two states, reunification can only be achieved through negotiations between these two states.

The reactionary Bonn parliament cannot decide the question of German reunification. The German people will achieve reunification without and against Adenauer. It is clear that this will not be achieved at one stroke, but will be the result of combined efforts of democratic and peace-loving people in West Germany and in the German Democratic Republic.

Walter Ulbricht outlined the proposals which should form the basis for setting up a united democratic Germany:

Germany must be a united, peace-loving, democratic and independent state.

The American strongpoints in Germany must be liquidated and the land returned to the peasants.

The mining, steel and chemical industries which are in the hands of the warmongers must be taken over by the people.

The reactionary Factory Act must be repealed.

A just land reform must be carried out in West Germany.

War criminals, warmongers and former SS-men must be removed from the state organs.

Equal rights for women must be assured.

Youth must be given full rights.

SPYING 'RESEARCH'

An American espionage organisation thinly disguised as an "Historical Research Center," with its headquarters at Cologne, in the British Zone of Germany, is cross-examining former nazi officers to obtain military information which might be used in bombing the Soviet Union.

A West German reader, formerly an officer in Hitler's army, who was a prisoner of war in the Soviet Union, has forwarded to GERMAN REPORT a copy of the letter and questionnaire which he received from this organisation. Here are some extracts:

United States Air Force
Historical Research Center
Cologne, Opepnheim Strasse 11,
Room 209

Dear Sir,

Since all persons who were outside the German Federal Republic during the war or later are in a position to give our Center valuable help, we believe that your experiences would be of great interest to us. Please fill out the attached questionnaire and return it to us in the stamped addressed envelope.

If we have further questions for you we shall send you a railway ticket so that you can come here for a personal talk.

Yours, etc. (signature illegible)

The questions asked in the questionnaire included the following:

Where were you imprisoned?

Where did you work during this period? If in industry, in what factory, and what precisely was your job?

Did you work on flying fields? What was the name and the situation?

Did you work on the building of roads, bridges, stores, etc? Where and when?

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

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Friedrichstrasse 167 III,
Berlin W 8,
Germany.

SPIKE THAT LIE!

September 18th 1953

Mr. Arthur Deakin,
Transport House
Smith Square
London S. W. 1.
England

Sir,

Speaking at the final session of the Trades Union Congress in Douglas on September 11th, you made a specific charge against the People's Police of the German Democratic Republic.

The London "Daily Herald" dated September 12th reported you in these words:

"Mr. Deakin illustrated the kind of 'freedom' that prevails behind the Iron Curtain by relating the story of the East German boy who thumbed his nose at a policeman and was shot. 'Our boys thumb their noses at the police,' he said, 'but they don't get shot'."

Since you are a director of the "Daily Herald" it appears probable that you have been reported correctly.

I live and work in East Germany, and I know from personal experience that the police here are at least as unlikely as British policemen to commit such an atrocity.

Since you related the story to reinforce a political argument, I think many British trade unionists will be interested in seeing whether you can confirm it.

I therefore challenge you to give the details of the alleged case: where and when did the shooting occur, and what was the name of the boy?

This letter will be published in the next issue of GERMAN REPORT, a copy of which I am enclosing for your perusal, and I shall be glad to print your reply.

I am, etc.,
John Peet

Readers can help us to spike the lies about East Germany in the big business press by sending us cuttings. Please write the name of the newspaper and the date on each cutting, and mail it in straight away, before the lie has a chance to get cold.

OUR BOOKSHELF

Vom Potsdamer Abkommen zur Viermächte-Konferenz (From the Potsdam Agreement to a Four Power Conference). By Karl Bittel. Kongress Verlag Berlin. Price 60 pfennigs.

For more than eight years the German people have been waiting for the peace treaty with a united Germany which was foreshadowed by the Potsdam Conference.

So many millions of words have been spoken and written on the subject in this period that many people have lost sight of what the Potsdam Agreement originally said, and what the present proposals are for achieving the aim of a united and peaceable Germany.

Professor Karl Bittel, head of the Institute for Contemporary History in Berlin, has provided a valuable short guide in his new book, which in just under 200 pages sketches the history of post-war Germany and gives the most important documents needed to understand the position. The book is only available in the German language.

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Eine Handvoll Konzern Herren (A Handful of Big Business Bosses). By G. Baumann. Verlag Volk und Welt, Berlin. Price 8.20 marks.

The same big business men who once put Hitler into power are back at the old stand again in West Germany, making huge sums out of the preparations for yet another war. This book gives short biographies of the main personalities in West German banking and heavy industry, and includes valuable charts showing the interlocking directorships which connect the big groups.

The book, which is well-indexed, should be invaluable to students of economic developments in West Germany. The book is available in German only.

(Readers should place orders for these and other books reviewed here with their local booksellers. GERMAN REPORT is unable to deal with orders.)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

". . . after happy childhood days in the Hitler Youth, Horst volunteered for secret missions behind the Russian front . . ."

You have three guesses where this quotation comes from. No, it is not from a neo-nazi or militarist paper in West Germany; it is a quotation from an article written by Norbert Muhlen in the "Reporter" New York, dated September 1st, 1953.

Fascist "Hero"

It is a sentence from an article praising a young fascist named Horst Schlaffke, who is claimed to have been one of the "heroes" of the riots in East Berlin on June 17th this year. What makes the article really shameful is that the writer, Norbert Muhlen, is himself a refugee from nazi Germany, and a Jew.

He has now become an American citizen, and has apparently forgotten that other young Germans who had spent "happy childhood days in the Hitler Youth" having their minds warped, murdered over six million Jews in Europe.

Incidentally, the whole article, as might be expected, is crammed with lies. The hero, the young provocateur named Horst, is described as being a construction worker in the Berlin Stalin Allee. "He could eke out a living if he ate meat no oftener than once a week," says Mr. Muhlen.

Quite a Steak

If he ate all the meat, very cheap meat to which his ration card as a construction worker entitled him, at one meal in the week, it must have been quite a meal, with a steak weighing a pound and a half.

"Horst crossed secretly over to West Berlin" quite regularly according to Mr. Muhlen. He must have looked very funny doing it. All the other hundreds of thousands who commute between the two halves of Berlin daily just get into underground trains, elevated trains, or just walk across, without any controls, or inspections of documents, or anything else.

And the editors of "Reporter" describe the article as "reporting in its true and classic form." If that's it, then I am anti-classical.

* * *

Belated confirmation is slowly coming in of the appalling danger to world peace on June 17th this year, when American and nazi agents launched riots in East Berlin.

At the time GERMAN REPORT pointed out that the spark in East Berlin could easily have been fanned into a flame of war if it had not been for the prompt and efficient intervention of Soviet army units.

This view has been given confirmation by one of the American agents directly responsible for the riots, Mr. Boris Shub, a political adviser to the American propaganda radio station RIAS in West Berlin, the station which broadcast constant instructions to the fascist thugs during the disturbances.

WISE WORDS

"Both Russia and the western countries have a common interest in preventing the rise of another militarist and aggressive Germany."

British Labour leader Clement Attlee in a broadcast speech on September 19th 1953

Writing in American magazine "Freeman" on August 24th, Mr. Shub stated that he had advocated ". . . the prompt entry of Western troops . . . into East Berlin before the arrival of Soviet tanks . . . which would likely have completed the downfall of the tottering German Communist Government."

An American official in an important position in the powder-keg of Europe therefore calmly advocated sending British, French and American troops into neighbouring territory to overthrow the government.

And he was by no means alone in such hair-raising plans. Thanks to the firm action of the East German authorities and the Soviet authorities, war-happy Americans did not have a chance to put their plans into action, but it was a close thing.

And as long as Germany remains divided, and as long as American fascists and German fascists sit at the controls in West Berlin, they are liable to drag all of us into catastrophe.

Criticism

A correspondent has criticised me for assuming that conditions are as good in all parts of the German Democratic Republic as they are in East Berlin.

"There may be enough to eat in East Berlin, which is open to inspection from the West, but I understand there is real starvation in parts of the East Zone," he writes.

Now last week I gave several lectures in towns in the Republic—in Dessau, Wolfen, Koethen and other places.

Rolling in the Aisles

And in each of these places I read the audience some recent "news" stories which had appeared in the British press, including these: ". . . in the East there has been no fresh milk since the war" (News Chronicle, London, July 15th); "For every three slices of bread eaten in West Germany there is only one for the average worker in the east" (Daily Herald, London, July 13th).

And everywhere the reception was the same: tut-tutting as I read the first extract, and roars of laughter as absurdity was piled upon absurdity. I frequently had to show the original clippings to convince doubters that the newspapers actually printed such stuff.

There was very certainly no starvation in any of these towns, and not a single member of any of the very mixed audiences to whom I spoke made the slightest suggestion that conditions were bad somewhere else in the Republic.

Cute Clipping

A correspondent in Britain has sent me a clipping from the London "News Chronicle" of September 23rd in which the Bonn correspondent of that paper makes some very misleading remarks about the important speech by Walter Ulbricht which is summarised on another page of this issue of GERMAN REPORT.

The interesting thing about the clipping, however, is that correspondent Bruce Rothwell, who should know better, describes Walter Ulbricht as "Communist Party Secretary General." Actually Herr Ulbricht is First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party.

It is only a minor point, of course, but as American satirist Ambrose Bierce once said:

"Professor Van Dyke is nothing if he is not accurate. He is not accurate."

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